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KEVCON, INC. MAKES IT QUICK
Company Begins Major Five-Month Renovation on Former Army Base

Escondido, Calif., October 3, 2011 – Kevcon, Inc., a firm that specializes in providing general contracting and construction management services for federal, state and city government projects, recently began a major renovation project at the former Fort Lawton Army Reserve Center, located in Seattle, Washington. Commissioned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the project involves transforming former office space on the second floor of Fort Lawton’s Building 240 into a patient and family lodging facility, providing veterans’ loved ones with a comfortable and safe location for multi-day stays in the area. Upon winning the bid for the assignment, the Kevcon team had to prepare for a challenging project—not just in terms of the construction itself, but in the 150-day timetable the VA set for completing the work.

“This project is going to illustrate Kevcon’s ability to manage a demanding schedule while still paying strict attention to detail as we complete the work on time and in conjunction with our outstanding safety program,” says project superintendent Dave Scott. “We are very involved when it comes to safety, and we will be sure to turn this project around quickly and as projected, heeding any warnings that we see to ensure that we have no injuries onsite while maintaining the high safety standards that the VA has come to expect from Kevcon.”

The renovation, which officially kicked off in September, involves the repurposing of more than 22,500 square feet of space on the upper level of Building 240. Formerly designated as administrative, training and storage space, the area will be turned into 40 functional yet welcoming rooms, each with its own private bathroom. The rooms will run along the perimeter of the building and surround a large common gathering area for patient families. Although the exterior of the building, which features stylish masonry, a metal roof and large storefront windows, will remain unchanged, all new materials are being brought in for the interior remodel, including standard gypsum board, highly durable carpeting and modest shower stalls.

To ensure that work proceeds quickly, subcontractors are being brought in on staggered intervals. In addition, decisions regarding long-lead items like colors and finishes are being made and approved early in the construction process so that all materials will be on hand when they are needed. With logistical plans in place, Kevcon can focus on the construction itself, which has posed its own set of challenges. The transformation from an office environment to the new hotel configuration has called for holes to be drilled into the floor; the team has had to identify structural components within the framework of the building and work around them as they strive

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to support 40 individual rooms and bathrooms. Additionally, as walls have been opened up during demolition, crewmembers have discovered gaps created by framing that was installed around structural elements instead of over them; these gaps must be corrected for the renovation to be successful. Fortunately, extensive planning coupled with flexibility has allowed the project to move forward without delay.

“We look forward to delivering a functional and solid renovation that gives the VA decades of use without any issues,” notes project manager Chris Young. “We will work diligently to get the job done within the timeframe outlined and are excited about the opportunity to move ahead with other facets of the project in the near future.”

Kevcon is slated to complete Phase 1 of the second-floor renovation on January 31, 2012. After being awarded Phase 2 of the project in September, the team will begin working on the renovation of a 629-square-foot common-area kitchen, which will serve patients’ visiting families as well. This second phase of construction will also include extensive site work, the installation of fresh landscaping and the addition of a new entrance canopy to the building.

About Kevcon, Inc.

Founded in 1988, Kevcon, Inc. is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business that offers construction and engineering, construction management, design-build services and more for a wide array of federal, state and city government projects, including veterans’ medical facilities, national veterans’ cemeteries, community parks and education buildings. As a veteran-owned, controlled and operated company, the firm is dedicated to employing qualified veterans who possess the applicable education, experience and skill to support Kevcon’s core competency. The recipient of the 2011 San Diego District Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year Award from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Kevcon is recognized in the industry for its exemplary work, high ethical and safety standards and outstanding customer service. For more information, call (760) 432-0307 or visit www.kevcon.us.

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